

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter shows the conclusion on the findings and discussion in Chapter Four, including the summary of the findings as well as my personal comments, and the limitations of the study. This chapter ends with suggestions for future research.

The purpose of this study is to divide Roald Dahl's short story, "Nunc Dimittis" into several major events according to Algirdas Julien Greimas' theories on structural Semiotics: the Actantial Model and the Narrative Trajectory. After the story has been divided into different major events, in this case three events, it is then analyzed so that the representation of the main male character can be found.

The most dominant characteristic that is shown to belong to the male character is revengeful. It is proven from the fact that it is actually the sender of each of the three major events in the story. In my opinion, the reason why Dahl puts this characteristic as Lampson's dominant trait is because he wants to show that it is a strong feeling which can drive even a respectable person to do

something that is not gentlemanlike to do. I believe that, because this characteristic is linked to another one of Lampson's characteristics, emotional, Dahl wants to suggest that men can be emotional too—so much so that they no longer able to think logically to brush off a passing comments made by others about themselves. In addition, since Dahl likes to put a twist into his stories, it is possible that in this story he wants to show that some men are very proud of themselves and will not take criticism lightly.

Another characteristic that can be found in the story in regard to the main male character is the fact that he is manipulative. This characteristic is seen mainly in the second event. In this event, Lampson uses his wit and money to make a famous painter believe that Lampson is sincere and romantic and in the end the painter unwittingly becomes an accomplice to his revenge plan. In my opinion, emotional people who are driven by hatred will do anything to make sure that their plan for revenge succeeds even if they have to manipulate others to become a part of their plan. In this case, Lampson does not only try to make Raydon sympathize with him but also tries to bribe him with money and promise of fame. I believe Dahl's purpose in making this one of the major characteristics is because it is actually very realistic and true to life, and Dahl wants the readers to be able to relate to that feeling.

Despite the negative characteristics that seem to be very dominant in the story, I also find that the male character is also portrayed to have positive characteristics. I find Lampson a very relentless and meticulous character. He plans every single detail of his revenge without missing a thing, and when his plan

is solid, he pushes it to reality without giving up even though he has almost failed in his attempt to persuade the painter. I believe that even though his meticulousness and relentlessness are used for a negative end, but they are still two very positive things to have as a person—especially for those who want to be successful in life.

Dahl also portrays Lampson as very knowledgeable and skilful. It can be seen from the way he can alter the painting into something that suits his plan; it shows that not only does he have the understanding of what to do to alter a painting, but he also has enough skills to make it look like the alteration is actually part of the original painting. Thus, in spite of what he uses his skills for in the end, I still believe that Lampson is quite talented, which is a positive trait to have.

Overall, from all three events, it can be seen that the male character is represented more negatively rather than positively. The positive characteristics found in his character seem to only serve the purpose of making the revenge plan successful; in other words, the positive characteristics are used to help the character achieve a negative thing and therefore do not show a positive light at all. I believe the reason that Dahl creates such a character is to remind the readers that vengefulness is a dangerous thing because it can make a respectable person lose their mind. In my opinion, it can also serve as a reminder that no matter how many positive traits we have, if it is used for bad things, it will only reflect negatively to us.

In doing this thesis, there are some limitations that can be seen. Due to time and space constraint, I am only able to use one short story as my source of data. This prevents me from making a generalization on how Dahl commonly portrays his male characters, especially in short stories. Another limitation is I do not divide the story into smaller units in order to gather more data regarding male representation. I also only analyze the structure of the story and not go deeper into a second layer analysis as the theories that I use are from Structural Semiotics field.

In relation to my limitations, I would recommend several things for future researchers. It will be very useful to use more than one story as a source of data; by using more than one stories, the future researcher may be able to find a more general clue on how Dahl usually portrays his male characters in his short stories. Also, the representation of the male characters may also be taken from every male character in the stories instead of only the main character. I also suggest that the future researcher may divide the story into smaller events in order to get a more detailed analysis of the story. Finally, I would also recommend that future researchers may use other Semiotics theories as well as other theories in Linguistics field in order to find a more thorough representation of the male character in this story.

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